

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, and newly added claims 10-12, are pending in this application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch (USP 5,467,264) in view of Chambers (International Publication No. WO 98/16886). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the remarks provided in prior communications and the amended claims herein.

The claims have been amended to specifically recite that at least one device's property includes a plurality of routes to other properties, and that the instruction that changes the device's property also includes an identifier of select routes of the plurality of routes, so that all routes are not necessarily enabled upon receipt of each instruction.


Conventional systems, such as Rauch, assume that a change to a root property that is linked to another property should unconditionally change the linked property. The Applicant has recognized that, with increased levels of interoperability, this conventional assumption limits the potential benefits that could be derived from interoperable devices, and that this conventional assumption can cause unexpected and inconsistent results when a device is linked to multiple other devices (Applicant's page 2, last paragraph through page 3, first full paragraph). Rauch, on the other hand, clearly teaches that all linked properties are changed when the root property is changed (Rauch, column 2, lines 56-63; column 3, lines 2-5; Figure 6 and accompanying text at column 7, line 48 through column 9, line 34).

Because Rauch neither teaches nor suggests providing an identifier of select routes of linked properties in the instruction that changes the root property, and specifically teaches that all linked properties are changed when the root property is changed, the Applicant respectfully maintains that claims 1-9, and newly added claims 10-12, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Rauch.

The Examiner relies upon Chambers for teaching software objects corresponding to physical devices. The Applicant concurs with this assessment of Chambers, but notes that claims 1-7 are amended herein to remove this limitation.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the present application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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On 7 July 2003 By 